

Swarthmore Aikido Club

Student Council Charter

I. Heading

Club name: Swarthmore College Aikido Club

Charter approved _____

To be renewed after a period of 1 year.

Drafted by Caleb Shetland, Coordinator and Chris Bussard, Treasurer, 24 January 2002

II. Purpose

The Aikido Club provides an opportunity for members of the Swarthmore College community to study the traditional Japanese martial art of Aikido. This art, which has been declared a national treasure in Japan, has been recognized by military and police forces around the world for its ability to neutralize aggressive force while causing minimal harm to an attacker. Aikido benefits students on both physical and mental levels, providing strenuous exercise at a level appropriate to each student while reducing stress and increasing self-confidence. Students explore both physical self-defense and non-confrontational means of conflict avoidance and resolution. Though many Aikido schools present Aikido as both a physical and a spiritual discipline, the Swarthmore Aikido Club's practice sessions do not include specific spiritual teachings.

Since its founding by Morihei Ueshiba in 1942, Aikido has diversified into several branches. The Aikido Club is associated with the most traditional school, which is known as Aikikai Aikido and is led by the Hombu Dojo in Tokyo. The Club is affiliated with the Center City Aikikai Dojo in Philadelphia under Sensei Donovan Waite, which serves as the Club's 'parent' dojo and provides the instructors for the Club's biweekly on-campus practice sessions.

III. Meetings/Practice

The Aikido Club will meet twice weekly for 1½ hours for training under an instructor sent by the Center City Aikikai Dojo. All members of the Swarthmore Aikido Club may also attend practice sessions free of charge at Center City Aikikai or any of its subsidiary dojos, including Malvern Aikikai, and are encouraged to do so at least once a week. Once each semester, on average, the Aikido Club will invite a high-ranking guest instructor to teach a day-long seminar on campus. These seminars will provide Aikido Club members the opportunity to practice with and meet Aikido students from other dojos.

IV. Membership

Aikido Club practice sessions are open to any member of the Swarthmore College community, as well as students from other Aikido dojos. Club membership is not denied for any reason, including physical handicap.

V. Structure/Leadership

The Club is facilitated by a Coordinator, and funds are handled by a Treasurer. Each of the two officers serves a one-year term and is appointed each spring by consensus, or by a vote if necessary. All members present at practice sessions participate in decision-making; the Coordinator then serves to communicate the Club's decisions to the leadership of the parent dojo, guest instructors and etc.

VI. Expenses

The expenses of the Aikido Club generally fall into 3 categories:

- 1) Transportation costs
- 2) Misc. little stuff such as copying costs for posters, etc.
- 3) Instructor fees

Instructor fees can in turn be divided into 2 sub-categories: the semesterly fee we pay to the parent dojo and the fees paid to guest instructors for seminars.

VII. Approved _____ <date>

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Student Groups Advisor	SGC Member
_____	_____
SGC Member	SGC Member
_____	_____
SGC Member	SGC Member